17th December 1953]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 80 asked by Sri M. Narayana Kurup at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 17th December 1953, page 136 supra.]

The distress in Manappuram area, Nattika firka, Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, is mainly due to the restrictions on remittances imposed under the Ceylon Exchange Control Regulations; but this question is one for the Central Government to consider. The fall in the price of coconuts is partly attributed to the cut in the import duty on coconut oil and copra. But the fall in the price is not so greatly marked as to cause alarm or to seriously upset local economy. As regards coir and mats, the real trouble is about marketing them at an economic price. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been asked to look into the question of establishing a co-operative society to advance money to those engaged in the coir and mat industry and help them to market their products. Not much damage was caused due to floods. About 15 huts were either damaged or destroyed in the entire Nattika firka and a sum of Rs. 300 was placed at the disposal of the Deputy Tahsildar, Chowghat, to grant financial assistance to those affected by the floods.

The question of supply of tapioca through ration shops has been considered by the Collector. He has authorized the Tahsildar of Walluvanad which is the main tapioca producing area of South Malabar to issue permits for the transport of tapioca to the Nattika firka through the intervening Travancore-Cochin State to such parties as may wish to do so. He has also opened four gruel centres in the worst affected localities of the area. The supply of midday meals was also extended to all the seven fishery schools of the Nattika firka. With the commencement of harvest and the resumption of fishing conditions would improve considerably.

The estimate for the construction of the Chettuvai bridge at a cost of Rs. 13·5 lakhs is pending scrutiny of the Chief Engineer (Highways). The Government have also under consideration—

(1) the question of sanctioning the grant of Rs. 1,44,000 to the district board for taking up the work of metalling at three sections covering a length of 14 miles in Chettuvai Ala road; and

(2) the question of sanctioning the work of forming Edathiruthi to Edumuttam road on a full grant basis by the district board.

The District Board, Malabar, has taken action to augment the supply of medicines to the Local Fund hospitals to provide better medical facilities to the people of the area.